

Winter 08 / FREE

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

Guest Magazine

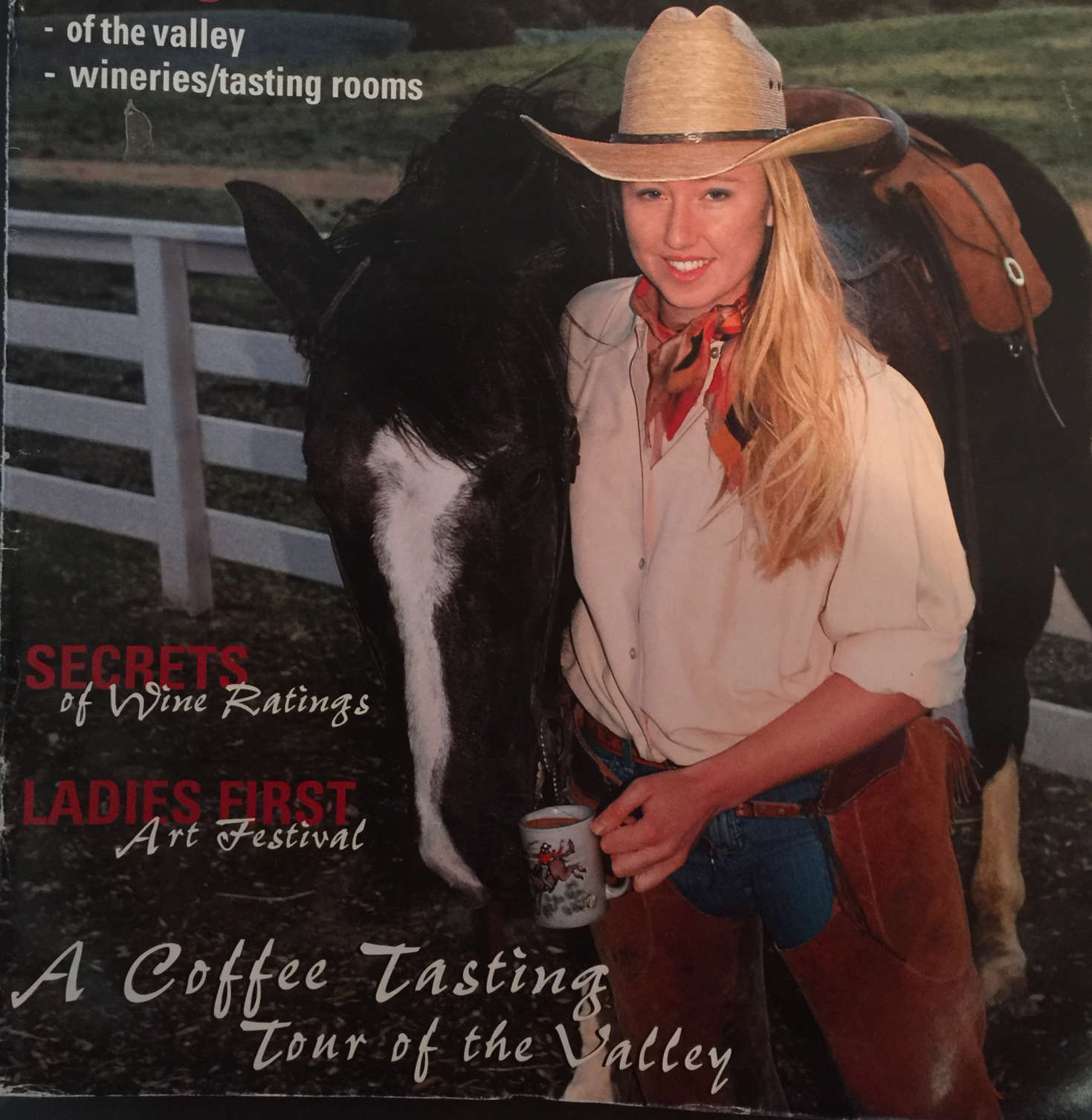
MAPS

- of the valley
- wineries/tasting rooms

SECRETS
of Wine Ratings

LADIES FIRST
Art Festival

*A Coffee Tasting
Tour of the Valley*





Photos by
Wolcott Schley



A Cowgirl's Guide to the Coffeehouses of the Valley

By Jessica Schley

Biscotti makes a great horse treat.

Just don't feed your steed the chocolate kind, because I hear it makes them sick. In the Valley, we have some great eats, and some great java. Whether you live here, or are just visiting, and are hankering for a good strong brew, there are coffeehouses to serve you, your horse, and even your cow-dog.

My grandpa used to say that cowboy coffee is not at all like the mocha-lattes or cappuccinos people like now days. He said cowboy coffee's so strong, it makes your spoon stand straight up in your cup. But if what you are looking for is a smooth cup of Joe, French or Italian, cream or no, come along with me as I tour the Valley's best spots for brewing up what my grandpa called greenhorn coffee.

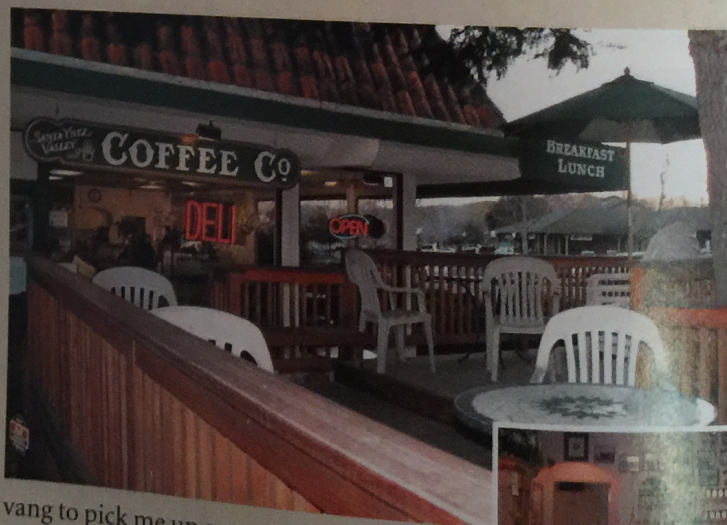
The Roasted Bean, next to the Post Office on Sagunto Street in Santa Ynez is a great place to start your day. After feeding the cattle at daybreak, you can take your cow-dog on down to get a hot, cream-filled mug of whatever you like and a fresh pastry or muffin. My dog Jones, who's not a cow-dog at all but a Boston Terrier, tags along and saves a seat for me outside, so I can watch the valley wake up, or maybe chit-chat with the Roasted Bean's local celebrity spokesman, Bob Eubanks. When I'm in

Buellton, there's another Roasted Bean in the Albertson's Shopping Center that's just as good, and has very convenient parking. Both have free Wi-Fi, if you need to check your e-mail.

Another great place to go in the morning is **Santa Ynez Coffee Company**. When I've got a real tough day ahead fixing fence or mucking corrals, I head in to Sol-

without any hassle. I can even order one of the Santa Ynez Coffee Company's delicious sandwiches to stow in my saddlebag for lunch. And I like to get a bag full of biscotti for my trusty horse, Java. She's got a lot of kick and is also pretty wired most of the time; hence the name. But when she's ridden right, she goes down the trail nice and smooth, the way a good cup of coffee should. Although I take my liquid java with cream, I prefer my horse black.

Sometimes in the afternoon I like to go to the **Bulldog Café** on Mission Drive with my dog Jones, read a book from the Book Loft next door, or check my e-mail



The Santa Ynez Coffee Co. offers both a spacious outside deck and a comfortable, well appointed interior.

vang to pick me up a scrumptious breakfast burrito and a mochacino to go. Sometimes I pull into the parking lot in the Nielsen's Shopping Center with my horse trailer in tow, and usually in the early morning there's plenty of room to get in and turn around



with my laptop on The Bulldog's free WiFi. Jones enjoys it too because he can sit with me inside, and even get a sip from the canine watering hole. I like to drink espresso in the afternoon, because it keeps me going for the rest of the day. There's no place to park my horse trailer, but I can usually find a space for my truck in the parking lot behind the building.

When I am in the north end of the Valley, I like to stop at the **Corner House Coffee** shop on Alamo Pintado Avenue across from the elementary school in Los Olivos. There's no other place quite like it, because if you want, you can forget about your car and just ride on over with your horse. There's even a hitch-rack outside. A cup of half-French, half-decaf, is the best combination to order there if you want a little pick-me-up but not the high-caffeine buzz that a full cup offers. They also have a tempting assortment of eats, from sandwiches to ice cream.

I can also park either my horse or my horse trailer outside the **Los Olivos Grocery**, where they have some of the best espresso this side of the Rio Grande—their blended drinks are also good and so's their

regular coffee. Their crew serves some great food to go or you can eat in The Porch Café, right in front of the store, where you can keep an eye on your horse.

When I have friends visiting from out of town who are hooked on **Starbucks**, I send them on over to the **Marriott Hotel** on McMurry Road in Buellton. They can get a cup to go, or rest a while in the comfy chairs. The Marriott has a full-service bar, right there with the coffee, so my friends



Most of the coffeehouses mentioned in this article offer the combination of high speed Wi-Fi internet connection and tranquil atmosphere necessary for serious computer work.



The Valley's best coffee and espresso specialty drinks, smoothies and ice blends. Comfortable patio and indoor seating.



A popular local spot for Breakfast and Lunch, featuring Egg Croissants, Omelettes, Pastries Soup, Salads & Sandwiches

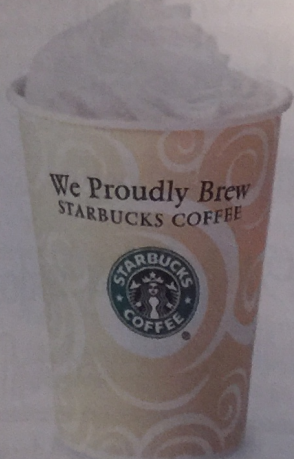
Call-in Orders Welcome ♦ Free WIFI Mobile Espresso Cart ♦ Catering

606 Alamo Pintado Rd, Ste 1 Solvang (in the Nielsen's Center) 688-3543/686-2389

M - F 6-6 ♦ Sat 6-5 ♦ Sun 6:30-5

Ahh!
The aroma of
fresh brewed coffee.

Grap a cup of delicious Starbucks® coffee inside the Santa Ynez Valley Marriott lobby. It's the perfect way to take a break from a busy day.



555 McMurray Road
Buellton, California
6:30 AM to 10:00 PM
805-688-1000

Marriott
SANTA YNEZ VALLEY

Starbucks® and the Starbucks logo are registered trademarks.

Voted Best in the Valley...
...for a reason.



- Full Service Deli
- Great Wines
- Domestic & Imported Cheeses
- Fresh Daily Roasted Coffee

2886 Mission Drive • (805)688-4300



CORNER HOUSE
• COFFEE •

Award Winning Coffee House
in Los Olivos



All-Natural European Pastries
Smoothies, Ice-Blended Coffee Drinks
McConnell's Ice Cream

Gift Certificates Available

2902 San Marcos Avenue • 688-1722
Mon - Th 6:30 am - 5 pm • Fri 6:30 am - 6 pm
Sat 7 am - 6 pm • Sun 7 am - 5 pm

Santa Ynez Valley Guest ♦ Winter 2008 ♦ 9